

Saguache County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday, June 21, 2011 with the following present:

Sam Pace, Chairman
Mike Spearman, Co-Vice Chair
Linda Joseph, Co-Vice Chair
Wendi Maez, Co-Administrator
Lyn Lambert, Co-Administrator
Ben Gibbons, County Attorney
Melinda Myers, Clerk and Secretary to the Board

Employee Appreciation Presentation:

Pam Jones and Mary Ann Martinez of Social Services won the “Most Improved Medium County for Current Support Collections” award from the State.

Meeting called to order by Chair Pace at 9:00 A.M.

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda.

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| Joseph moved to approve the agenda. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes. |
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Reading and approval of minutes of June 14, 2011.

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| Joseph moved to approve the minutes of June 14, 2011. Spearman seconded motion. The vote was three Ayes. |
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Review of Mail and other correspondence:

1. **Saguache Community Garden** sent a letter thanking the BOCC for the awarded 2011 Sales Tax Grant. (6/16/11)
2. **The Gunnison Basin Roundtable** sent a letter in regards to a Saguache County Representative Member. (6/16/11)
3. **AT&T** sent an invitation to the BOCC to join the service expansion and future plan enhancements through AT&T and T-Mobile on June 27, 28, & 29 at the Inn of the Rio Grande in Alamosa at 9:00a.m. Please RSVP with Krista at 303-294-6461. (6/17/11)
4. **Firewise Communities** sent the Spring 2011 Newsletter. (6/17/11)
5. **ScSeed** sent the Economic Development Activity Report. (6/17/11)
6. **ScSeed** sent the Economic Development Training Summary. (6/17/11)
7. **State of Colorado Dept. of Natural Resources** sent a letter with the update on the SLV Water Conditions. (6/17/11)
8. **Jennifer Runyon** sent an email regarding the Board on Geographic Names June 2011 Decisions. (6/20/11)
9. **The Secretary of the Interior** sent a letter to notify the County of the payment issued for the PILT Program. (6/20/11)
10. **County Technical Services, Inc** sent the 2010 Annual Report. (6/20/11)

Introduction of Guests: Matie Belle Lakish – Crestone Eagle; Gary Boyce; JW Burton; Kim Smoyer - ScSEED; Erin Minks – Senator Udall; Tim Wohlgenant & Wade Shelton – Trust for Public Lands; Rebie Hazard and Don Greenstreet – Farm Service Agency/USDA.

Commissioners Reports:

Sam Pace reported:

- June 16 Attended the SCC Seniors in Alamosa.
- Received calls from residents on local rash of fires.
- June 20 – Attended the SCPP meeting in Saguache at the Public Health office.
- Spoke with Gary Boyce about him opting out of the proposed Crestone Fire District. Mr. Boyce brought his request letter to the Board meeting and make his concerns known and that he was never contacted by the organizers of the District. He would be the only rancher and the biggest land owner in the new District, which would split the protection on his property. Attorney Gibbons outlined the procedures required to opt out of the new District, which the ultimate determination is with the Court.

Linda Joseph reported:

- Worked with April Quintana, Human Resources, on documents and memos for the Dept Head performance evaluations.
- Received a call from Kevin Hicks of Sargents, regarding pursuing an EMS grant for communications improvements, for first responders in that area.
- SEMTAC grants were announced yesterday, and all grants from Saguache County were approved. The SLV RETAC grant was also approved.
- Worked on connections for dancers and food for the Saguache Wacipi PowWow in September.

Mike Spearman reported:

- No meetings this week.

Darlene Yarbrough – Baca realtor

- Has been researching property values in the Baca and the tax valuations. Assessor Stephens explained the work her office is doing to bring valuations up to date.

Wendi Maez & Lyn Lambert – Co-administrator report:

- CSBG/SLV Community Action Agency discussion, - the paperwork involved in receiving a CSBG grant is not always worth the funds and several agencies have turned down the money. The SLVCCA will be meeting with the Valley BOCC to discuss several different options for funding.
- Computer problems have been cropping up, requiring technical assistance. The Administration server is shared with the Sheriff's department and has had viruses that compromise the integrity of the system. So they moved over to the Assessor/Treasurer server and WSB Computer Service recommends getting a sonic wall to install in the server and also wireless headsets for the phones.
- Computer equipment purchases
- Board received update on personnel with excess leave that must be taken by year end.
- The Veteran's report was signed.
- Gunnison County sent an email to set a meeting date and time for a general discussion. Tentative date for meeting - September 13th.

Pace moved to approve the change in the use of Conservation Trust Funds for the Moffat School from \$10,000 for a Grow Dome to \$8,000 for safety lighting and alarm system. Joseph seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

- Moffat School District received Conservation Trust Fund grant for a Grow Dome. They were waiting for the other funding to fall into place. Now however, a need arose to update the safety lighting and alarm system in several areas of school for safety reasons. They would like to use the money for this purpose instead and it meets the criteria for CTF.

Break

Wendi Maez - Land Use report:

- The quit claim deed from Saguache County to Garth D. Cooke for the purchase of the Town Site of Iris and the 1/6 mineral interest in Vulcan Mining Claim #10909 was signed.

Ben Gibbons - County Attorney Report:

- In the Gessler case, Proposed Findings of Facts and Conclusions have been presented to the Judge. His ruling is under no time frame, so there is no expected date for a ruling.
- One hour hearing on July 11th at 10:00 in the Marks case on the issues between ES&S and Marks.
- Myers gave a report on the Grand Jury findings and commented on the detailed comprehensive job they did on examining the election. Her hope is now the questions can be laid to rest.
- Field trip to County Road XX needs to be coordinated. Tour will be held July 26th.
- Spearman asked Gibbons for guidance on authority of emergency food banks in the county.

Mike Norris – Sheriff report:

- Hellgate Fire in La Garita will be billed out through CSU, including the portion for which Saguache County has responsibility.
- Presented a copy of the Annual Operating Plan for Fire for review by the Board.
- The day after the Fire Ban went into place; there were 5 fires in three and a half hours 3 in the Crestone area, two near Saguache. One of the fires was on private property and the rest were on public lands. Sheriff Norris commented on the excellent response by the volunteer fire departments across the county. Forest Service personnel are going to set up training with the local departments on wild land fires and safety.

Jail Tour

Adjourned for Lunch at 12:00 P. M.

Resumed meeting at 1:00 P. M.

Randy Arredondo –

- Arredondo is researching the ownership of County Road C & D.
- The 31XX road is in good shape this spring.

- Dan Sanderson, Leach Field property was divided several times, but it was never filed and approved. Mr. Sanderson will work on getting it cleared up so he can sell it.
- Discussed employee leave of absence issue. The policy states it is the discretion of Department Head or Elected Official to approve requested leave of absence requests and Commissioner declined to change this policy.
- Set the date for trip to tour county roads with the Board on July 26 at 9:00 as a work session.
- Road & Bridge will be getting a bill from Rio Grande County on the work on the Regional Veteran's cemetery.

Joseph moved to convene as Saguache County Board of Social Services at 1:43 P.M. Pace seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Jeannie Norris - Director Board of Social Services:

- There were 15 active TANF cases during the month of May, with 6 child-only cases for a total of 21, with 7 cases pending. Food assistance cases climbed sharply to 538 during April, and rose again in May to 555 open cases. There were 27 aid-to-the-needy-disabled cases, and 98 old-age pension cases.
- The LEAP program is complete for the season, and served 637 households with \$436,219.71 in heating assistance.
- The Child and Adult Protection Unit had 10 referrals during the month of May, and all were accepted for investigation. The Unit currently has 11 dependency and neglect court cases with 18 children in placement. There is 1 open adult protection case. There are 77 open child protection cases at this time.
- The IV-D Unit received an award at their annual Family Support Conference, for having been the most improved medium county in child support collections. Twenty-two counties are listed as medium, including Douglas, Alamosa, Delta, LaPlata and Rio Grande. As Saguache is by far the smallest medium county, this was indeed an accomplishment. Year-to-date collections through May, 2011 are \$233,175.65, as compared to \$230,449.28 for the same time last year.
- Saguache DSS is providing two meeting rooms for Colorado Rural Philanthropy Days in the "Breakfast Rounds" category.
- The Saguache County Emergency Food Bank is moving forward. We are now in possession of a trailer dedicated to Saguache County food programs. A total of \$2,450.00 was donated, and the trailer cost a total of \$1850.23. Installation of the steel sides and painting were in-kind donations. The Department is already designated as a contact point with Care and Share, who will deliver the majority of food ordered from them directly to our facility. Tom Ramirez from the Care and Share Agency shared with MaryAnn Martinez that a gap analysis done every two years considered Saguache County one of five counties as having the "worst food insecurity rate". They determined the results based upon food insecurity, unemployment rates, poverty rates, income levels and cost of food. Commodities are scheduled for distribution in the communities of Center, Saguache and Crestone on June 29, 30, and July 1.

Joseph moved to return to regular session at 2:06 P. M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Kim Smoyer - ScSeed Economic Development Update

- Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) – It is confirmed that there will be a Youth Track from 10 Am – 5 PM on Thursday for the middle and high school students from MVS to participate in the event. We are also organizing a government session for local and county officials to participate. Linda Joseph and Crestina Martinez are helping us work on this topic. We hope that members of the BOCC will attend. Many thanks for awarding the \$6000 Sales Tax Grant! This puts Saguache County as a Blanca Peak Sponsor (\$5000 or more) which includes your logo in the event program (large), link on the website, full page advertisement in program, acknowledgment in RPD printed materials, banner at event (banner provided by sponsor), announced during event, a donor Certificate of Recognition, and two passes to the event. The event will be held September 14 – 16th. For details visit www.slvcpd.org.
- Saguache Chamber – The Chamber membership met on June 14th and are moving ahead with developing a comprehensive marketing plan which will include revitalizing the Chamber website, researching, developing and purchasing advertisements, developing a Chamber logo, creating a recognition program for members and membership drive materials. The Chamber will sponsor the SLV RPD event and may provide pens with the Chamber logo for the participant packets.
- Saguache Artist Coop –Lynn is currently working on the 6-month final report for BOCC funding which is due June 30th. Please visit the new *Saguache Artists* webpage on the Saguache Chamber of Commerce website at <http://www.townofsaguache.org/saguache-artists.htm> for more information and to learn more about the participating artists. Featured artists will include: baskets and gourds by Byron Williams, fantasy illustrations and collages by Judith Page, fine woodworking, hats and bags made by Slim Wolfe of “Mad Hatter Woodworks”, functional table and kitchenware by Riff and Marilyn of Fenton Studio Pottery, sacred drawings and botanical images on handmade paper by Lynn Amlie of SunMoon Creations and impressionistic landscapes by Christa Gulaian.
- Saguache Downtown Revitalization Project (SDRP) – This May we received notification from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) that we would receive a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to implement the renovation plan. We have been hard at work raising matching funds through the Board of County Commissioner Sales Tax Grants, El Pomar Foundation and our own General Improvement Fund and we are ready to begin the construction in early June. The project will start with the replacement of sewer lines at several locations on 4th Street. Most of the SDRP renovation work will take place on two blocks on 4th Street between Denver and Christy Streets. Demolition on the project includes milling asphalt pavement to a depth of 1 inch below the asphalt and hauling it to the town dumpsite, and removing concrete curbs, gutters and sidewalks and hauling to the town sewage treatment plant to be reused. Construction includes the following:
 1. Replacing curbs, gutters and sidewalks
 2. New storm inlets
 3. Adding handicapped accessible ramps
 4. New streetlights, benches and planters
 5. Rough-in for future fire light

6. Underground electrical for lighting and outlets
 1. New street signs and stop signs
 2. Replacement of asphalt on the entire length of 4th Street

We are doing everything possible to move this project along quickly so that we have it completed by mid-September in time to host the SLV Rural Philanthropy Days, which includes 200 visitors to our community.

We anticipate that the street will remain open to traffic throughout the construction process. The SLV Development Resources Group (DRG) and DOLA representative have given us a very helpful guide called “The San Luis Valley Cone Zone Survival Guide” to assist businesses during road construction. This guide is available at Town Hall or by contacting our project manager, Kim Smoyer, at 719-655-0104. Additionally, the project engineer, Bob Williams, has assured us that the contractor will be required to present a comprehensive traffic plan for the project that includes directional signage off of Highway 285.

- The Visioning Committee is meeting, again for the second time, on June 16th to pick the lighting, planters and benches.
- Economic Developer Training – Smoyer attended a week long Economic Developer Training in Denver from June 6 – 10th. We became members of the Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC). EDCC was the organization that will provide this \$550 scholarship to attend the training. The training was very interesting and she learned a lot about ED. The following is a detailed summary of the training experience and her suggestions for moving forward with ED here in Saguache County.
- SUMMARY of Training – Possible Next Steps for Saguache:
Economic Development = increase income coming into your markets.

Two types of Income:

1. Export income = income occurs when a market produces more goods and services than can be absorbed by the local marketplace; products and services are “exported” to other markets in exchange for cash.
2. Primary income = results from people, usually tourists, who come to the local marketplace to visit an “attraction.” advertising is the usual means to inform tourists of the attractions; ski resorts, sports, arts and culture are typical destinations for primary income producers.

Economic Impact Study – Targeted Industry or Cluster Studies – these studies assess the types of companies already in the local market and determine whether they can be expected to grow or decline in the future. They also assess the potential opportunities posed by other companies not present in the market that can be attracted to the community.

10 Reasons Why Companies Locate:

1. 60 minutes from airport
2. Proximity to markets
3. Labor/skills availability
4. Tax and regulatory
5. Close to major University
6. Quality of life issues
7. Cost of doing business
8. Strong and stable political leadership
9. Incentives

10. New or planned infrastructure

Goals of Local Economic Development:

1. Quality jobs for the existing population
2. Local economic stability
3. Diverse economic and employment base

Basic Steps in the Local Economic Development Planning Process:

1. Identifying the participants: businesses, government, individuals, community groups, and local leadership.
2. Defining the geographic scope: an area of economic cohesion, nested within larger economies.
3. Gathering data and conducting analysis: process of comparison, combines quantitative & qualitative analysis, and may involve the use of outside experts.
4. Selecting a local strategy: outcomes of data analysis, id key economic sectors, id linkages between local and larger economies, assess potential for local growth and id affected populations.
5. Selecting specific projects or activities: place-based activities, planning & development regulations, transportation & infrastructure, streetscaping, enterprise zones & BIDs.
6. Specifying details: inputs, outputs, finances, time frames, etc.
7. Implementation and performance measurement: revisit objectives, review timelines, id desired outcomes, id key measure for success and document processes.

Possible Next Steps:

1. Focus on business retention and expansion; develop a database of county businesses with detailed information.
 2. Develop a planning process that includes countywide economic analysis data.
 3. Develop a Saguache demographics and attraction marketing piece.
 4. Develop a Saguache County business focused & business attraction website.
 5. Develop a database of countywide real estate (for business purposes).
 6. Contact and establish a relationship with a Site Selector company or agent.
- Saguache Historic Walking Tour – The final printed booklet has been distributed widely throughout the region. We have received a lot of very positive feedback from those who have received a copy. In early June a group of German tourists, numbering about 20, were spotted taking the walking tour through Saguache. This was a special walking tour club from Germany. Here is the Four Corners Geotourism site where Saguache is listed as a place to visit - <http://www.fourcornersgeotourism.com/content/historic-downtown-saguache/fca563F5043E93E3D973>
 - Saguache Clean-Up Day – We are very excited about a new opportunity to partner with the Forest Service (and its AmeriCorps volunteers) to accomplish our goals. Penny, Lindy and Marge met yesterday with Steve Sanchez and agreed to postpone our big town cleanup day to July 17--with a party/barbecue in the park. (Organizing a community event is part of the groups' volunteer assignment.) In the few days preceding that event, our young volunteers (with local volunteers) will finish painting the library and the community building. Meanwhile, a different group of volunteers will be here in early June and will help us with a couple of 4th Street properties. We are currently committed to painting/fixing up Mike Cassidy's building and the "false front" next door, and are

waiting for final word on the medical building. (Dr. Arnett has applied for a grant to replace the windows, etc, and has asked us to wait...)

- Historic Preservation Commission - The HPC will provide walking-tour guides for the SLV RPD event in September. They are also in the process of completing a State Historical Fund grant application to have a Historical Structure Assessment (HSA) completed on the Town Hall. In June they also had a special CLG training that was hosted in Saguache by the State Historic Fund's Director Dan Corson.
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC) – I have several business clients in Saguache that I am currently working with – providing business counseling. The Social Media and Marketing workshop took place from 4-6 PM in Saguache on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. This workshop had five participants; all of which got hands-on assistance with developing these tools for their businesses. Several of these folks asked for follow-up counseling services through the SBDC.
- SLV Energy Steering Committee – The next SLV Sustainable Energy Collaborative Steering Committee meeting will be 5:00 pm, Thursday, June 16 at the Extension office in Monte. This meeting will be an important and interesting one, with the Valley-wide energy consumption data analysis done and available at the meeting. This is the last piece needed for GEO approval of our plan. SLV REC energy fair is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21. Other items on the agenda include results of the microhydro workshop and recent developments on the agriculture front.
- Saguache Economic Development Plan – The final Region 8 plan has been finalized and is attached.
- Building A Better Colorado Through Civic Engagement - A summary of Colorado's Future Civic Engagement meeting in Alamosa on March 31, 2011 was made available. Click [here](#) for a copy. Feel free to visit www.coloradosfuture.org for an update on civic engagement processes.
- Charitable Planning Strategies – Smoyer attended a training in Alamosa titled, "Charitable Planning Strategies that Really Work," presented by Johnny Hays, Senior Planning Consultant, The Stellar Company. This session was organized and presented by The Colorado Planned Giving Roundtable and The Association of Fundraising Professionals.
- Business Retention & Expansion – ScSEED has been working with MV Lumber to assist with the acquisition of an energy audit. The audit was recently conducted. We have also written a letter in support of a solution for Mountain Valley Lumber of Saguache, and the U.S. Forest Service Escarabajo Salvage Timber Sale Contract #000298, 9/26/2007. I also met with Mike Wisdom, who is now a member of ScSEED's Board of Directors, and a company from AZ who are interested in starting a business in Saguache.

Break

Tim Wohlgenant- The Trust for Public Land:

- Presented a power point on Conservation Easements in the Saguache Creek Corridor.
- New conservation efforts on Poncha Pass on Campbell Ranch.
- The Board approved sending a letter of support for their grant application on this project.

Joseph moved to convene as the Housing Board at 2:59 P.M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Evan Samora - Saguache County Housing

Joseph moved to adjourn the Housing Board and return to regular meeting at 3:30 P.M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Don Greenstreet – Settlement agreement with USDA

- Presented an information sheet on compensation for claims of discrimination for women and/or Hispanics. Mr. Greenstreet wanted to meet with the Board to get the word out in the County and help folks get the proper claims packet.

Bill Paying

Joseph moved to adjourn at 3:41 P.M. Spearman seconded the motion. The vote was three Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Myers Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Approved July 5, 2011

Chairman of the Board

Attest

Commissioner

Commissioner